

Application Serial No. 09/555,549
Amendment dated 30 July 2003
Reply to Office Action mailed 6 May 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to specify that the package prevents the active substances present in the ring from leaking to the environment. Support for these amendments can be found at page 1, lines 12-13.

It is submitted that these amendments do not constitute new matter, and their entry is requested.

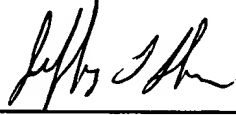
Claims 1-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for lack of written description. The Examiner contends that the specification did not provide support for the limitations “and wherein the package prevents influence of the ring on the environment” and “thereby preventing influence of the intravaginal ring on the environment” made in the previous amendment. Applicants, however, believe that this language is fully supported by the specification at page 3, lines 7-8. Nevertheless, in an effort to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 5 to specify that “the package prevents the active substances present in the (intravaginal) ring from leaking to the environment” as suggested by the Examiner. Support for this language can be found at page 1, lines 12-13 of the specification.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the claims comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, it is believed that the claims satisfy the requirements of the patent statutes and are patentable over the prior art. Reconsideration of the

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instant application and early notice of allowance are requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if it is deemed to expedite allowance of the application.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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